

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] further advised that his organization is loosely organized and that they have held no meetings nor elected any officers. They have an implied agreement among themselves to protect each other in the event of an attack on any of them by the "Klan". In the event of a racial riot he said they would do what they could to stop it.

[REDACTED] described himself as a law-abiding, God-fearing individual. He said he is "not anti white" but he is "pro-Negro".

[REDACTED] described as follows:

Name: [REDACTED]

Race: [REDACTED]

Sex: [REDACTED]

Birth data: [REDACTED]

Height: [REDACTED]

Weight: [REDACTED]

Build: [REDACTED]

Hair: [REDACTED]

Eyes: [REDACTED]

Complexion: [REDACTED]

Marital status: [REDACTED]

Employment: [REDACTED]

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FBI

Date: 6-8-66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RM (ORGANIZATION)

OO: NEW ORLEANS

RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-82 BY SP1 JOK/12

Enclosed for the Bureau are 9 copies of a LHM
containing a transcript of an interview of ERNEST THOMAS
on "Hot Line", WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois, on May 23,
1966, by WESLEY SOUTH, Moderator.

"Hot Line" was taped on May 23, 1966 by IC

- ⑤ - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc 9)
 - (1 - 157- [REDACTED])
- 4 - WFO (157-794) (Enc 2)
 - (2 - 157-801 [REDACTED])
- 4 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc 2)
 - (2 - 157- [REDACTED])
- 4 - Chicago
 - (1 - 157-350 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
 - (1 - 157-413 RM)

REC 33

17 JUN 9 1966

WMP: csk
(17)

AGENCY: ACST, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.

DEPT: ISO, CRD, [REDACTED] - Can. Pub. Service

DATE FORW: 6/13/66

HOW FORW: [REDACTED]

ICC AT+LHM 902 970

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

69 JUN 17 1966

Two copies of the LHM are enclosed to WFO and two copies to New Orleans.

In addition, one copy each of the LHM has been disseminated locally at Chicago to the USA, Secret Service, and Region I, 113th INTC Group.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 1. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons (evidently nationwide) were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1 - 2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

2. Will also attempt to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's numerical figure of an "expected" influx of 10,000 to 15,000 Deacons into Chicago, where they will live in the city, within the next three months.

3. Will develop and furnish any information regarding opening and operation of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) office in Chicago and the identity of persons involved.

THOMAS indicated that a DDJ office has been opened at 1230 South Pulaski, Chicago, and that somewhere around 455 persons have been recruited. New Orleans will attempt to verify or disprove this figure through informants and sources.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1-2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

CG 157-572
157-840

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 1. Will continue investigation into the alleged organization and activities of a branch of the DDJ at Chicago.

2. Will contact confidential informants and sources and maintain contact with them to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's claim that 455 persons have been recruited into the DDJ at Chicago.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

JUNE 8, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

RACIAL MATTER

b7c

Ernest Thomas, characterized as the local organizer for the Deacons For Defense and Justice (DDJ) and as Regional Vice-President and Northern Director for the DDJ, appeared on the program "Hot Line" on WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois on May 23, 1966. "Hot Line" is a radio program on which a controversial figure is usually interviewed. Telephone questions are solicited from listeners which are answered by the interviewee. A transcript of the program pertaining to THOMAS is as follows:

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DATE 7-23-82 BY SP1 JEL/gh

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-137

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9 ERNEST THOMAS, local organizer for the Deacons for
10 Defense and Justice, appeared on "Hot Line," May 23, 1966,
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12 11:00 to 12:00 Midnight, on WVON Radio. WESLEY SOUTH was the
13
14 Moderator.
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18 THOMAS

Well, I've been in and out of Chicago for the
last seven months. Presently it's around
455 actual members of it now. But the number
is going to grow quite large. Actually, we
got to open an office on the north and south
side now because we have such a great number
that is coming in we won't be able with the
space that is ...

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33 Moderator

Listen, I want to ask you. I noticed you
opened on the west side first. Why did you
open over there and not on the south?

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40 THOMAS

Well, you take the west side for instance.
I think it is more or less of a place where
something is really about to explode. It is
just like being in with a load of dynamite with
the fuse lit, and we felt if we could come into
the west side and begin to relate to the man

the problems there and if he really wants to solve them he could go about doing it. Hopefully that he will try to do something about the problem on the west side. Because, see, as long as you let the problem exist we can keep hollering about crime rates and all of this but if we really want to stop crime rates then we get some jobs for people because ain't nobody in the world. I wouldn't even recommend that a man stand out in front of the A&P or the Acme (phonetic) markets and look at a ham and starve to death there. So the best thing for him to do would be to break the glass to get him some ham. Now so the structure wants to deal with this then they have to begin to give some jobs, make some jobs.

Moderator

Will you also be a job seeking agency?

THOMAS

Certainly. We will be trying to seek out employment for, as the structure say, qualified personnel. We will be trying to find them some qualified personnel.

Moderator

What are the requirements to belong to the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

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THOMAS

Well, first thing you must be a Negro, you must be 21 years of age, as the board say you must have the character of becoming a Deacon.

Moderator

Now that is the crucial question.

THOMAS

Well, the board figure that you must feel as though you have to make a decision whether you stand for freedom or you are out here just saying you represent freedom or you are fighting for freedom. And this means whatever necessary to gain freedom, this is what you are willing to do.

Moderator

In other words, if a person who say he is for freedom and is fighting for freedom unless he, well, joins your group then you don't believe that he really wants it. Where you would go all the way possibly in order to get the freedom that another person would take to the courts.

THOMAS

Well, what I mean. I hope it don't be misleading. We're glad to see the other groups here.

Moderator

Well, I mean if they don't join you they are not, from what you just said a moment ago, if I am interpreting you correctly, then they are just

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out here talking and they really don't mean what they say.

THOMAS

Well, that's true. You see, because how can you tell a man that you are going to be out here after this freedom and are going to let him whip your head and when he whip your head you are

coming back tomorrow and let him whip your head.

To us this does not seem like being a man. Now

we are after what is rightfully ours and upon

action for what is rightfully ours then I

expect to get it and we don't expect you to use brute force against us to deny us this.

Moderator

Ladies and gentlemen. I just got a note from the control room that we had a little difficulty before we went on the air and probably you didn't hear who our guest is tonight. He is Mr. ERNEST THOMAS, who is the Regional President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. They opened an office on the west side three weeks ago. As I said, I want to welcome him back. You know he was our guest, I think it was back in October, wasn't it?

THOMAS

Yes, it was.

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9 Moderator

So in case you were listening and wondering who that was on the "Hot Line" his name is ERNEST THOMAS and he's the top Deacon here. Is that right?

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17 THOMAS

That's true.

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19 Moderator

Why do you say Deacon? Why not pastor?

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21 THOMAS

It was a name that was kicked around and it was beginning to look... All this was church orientated and so the Deacons more or less taking care of the business of the church and so we said this is a good name because we're out here protecting the civil rights workers so that is the name we settled on, Deacons for Defense and Justice.

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37 Moderator

Is there any way of just recognizing a Deacon on the street?

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41 THOMAS

No, there is really no way because as you know Deacons are black so, you see a lot of black people.

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47 Moderator

You want to see a million Deacons. What about women? Can they join?

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51 THOMAS

Yes, women can join too. We have a Deaconess started. This is only in the Northern chapters, though, that we have Deaconess.

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7 Moderator

Will they be in the gun clubs too, rifle club?

9 THOMAS

Well, certainly.

11 Moderator

12 Talking about the requirements in order to be a
13 member of Deacons, and that's when I was handed
14 this note, and you were telling us the different
15 requirements. Did you finish? I cut you off

16 there.

18 THOMAS

Well, I pretty well covered it.

20 Moderator

What about a fellow who has been in prison?

22 THOMAS

Well, a man being in prison doesn't...

24 Moderator

He can still be a Deacon.

26 THOMAS

27 He still can be a Deacon because man you have to
28 face this fact, and this is one thing I blame
29 society for. If a man has a criminal record
30 and if we're trying to reform the man certainly
31 he needs employment. And we find as a whole
32 your criminals are mostly unemployed and with no
33 hopes of getting a job because as soon as a man
34 looks at his record then he refuse him so
35 therefore you are telling him go back out and
36 stick somebody up or go back out and do the same
37 crime over again and let the state take care of
38 you. This is bad.

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8 Moderator

Do the Deacons intend to protect civil rights workers here?

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12 THOMAS

Well, we intend to protect civil rights workers to a point in the city of Chicago. If we're called upon to help out then we will do this

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18 Moderator

Now what do you mean by that. That's rather ambiguous. If we're called - say that they are marching as they did down near Mayor DALEY's home as they did last summer and they ask you for protection. Now maybe, oh maybe 200 or 300 policemen there. Would they feel they needed some protection from you? I mean just say that someone said well here's a good chance for us to have a confrontation. Let's call the Deacons. What would you do in a case like this? Well, we would come in more or less as witnesses to the fact. We wouldn't participate openly in the march but we would be there as spectators and we would be looking out for police brutality and John Bigot coming around and agitating them whereas they have committed them to non-violence. So that if the police would not handle John Bigot we would take care of John Bigot for them.

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38 THOMAS

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9 Moderator

In other words, you put John Bigot in his place.

10 THOMAS

That's right.

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12 Moderator

Would you be armed?

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14 THOMAS

Well, I wouldn't feel that we would need to be

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16 Moderator

You wouldn't feel a need to be but would you

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18 THOMAS

Well, no. If we didn't feel that we need to be

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20 armed...

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22 Moderator

If you felt that you need to be you would be

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24 armed.

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26 THOMAS

Oh, certainly.

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28 Moderator

Even though the police are there.

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30 THOMAS

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32 Certainly. Because, you know, like one has to
33 protect himself and if you lack the confidence
34 in the police to protect you then you have to
35 protect yourself.
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38 Moderator

39 And then what about if the Governor would send
40 in the National Guard and they declare martial
41 law?
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44 THOMAS

45 Well, if they declared martial law then like I
46 say we would kind of go along with it like to a
47 point as long as the police is capable of carry-
48 ing out equal justice.
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7 Moderator

Now you say to a point. You indicate that there might be a point that you would not go.

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11 THOMAS

As I plainly stated we are fighting for our freedom and this means at all cost. Now if the man don't want to give any ground then that is what it is. It's a fight. But I am hoping and I think that somewhere along the line that the man will give some ground. But we intend to have our freedom one way or the other. It's no if/and about that.

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27 Moderator

Now what do the Deacons, what do you think about the Chicago Police Department?

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31 THOMAS

Well, here on the off and on periods that I have been in the city here could stand a lot, could be changed in Chicago here with the police department to make it function a little better. For an instance, on the west side here you see sometimes two white police. Well, a lot of times you see two white policemen in the car together, two blacks together, then you see, at night I see detectives riding four whites in the car. When you see things like this you know

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that some black person is going to get abused because when they riding like that that is what they're out there big. Ninety per cent of the time And this is bad. And if the man really wanted to make a change in Chicago then there should be integration here. Black and white police together. And this way the black one couldn't abuse the white one and the white one couldn't abuse the black one because after all he belongs to the black race and he belongs to the white race. This would seem to be a way of balancing it out. But I've been told they have done it last year, you know, during the riots for a while but then they put them back together. So I don't know what the situation is going to be here. That would be one of my suggestions to, as a matter of fact I have a meeting with Superintendent WILSON on Thursday evening. I am going to strongly suggest this would be one of the best things really if they intended to try to keep it cool some, is to put a little integration in the Chicago Police Department.

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7 Moderator

Did you say you will be meeting with
Superintendent WILSON? When?

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11 THOMAS

Thursday evening.

13 Moderator

Thursday evening. Now you were talking about
riots. Do the Deacons believe there is a
possibility of a riot in Chicago this summer?

19 THOMAS

Yes. We are hoping strongly it doesn't be a
riot in the city of Chicago and if we can get
the cooperation from the people in the city of
Chicago we might be able to stop a riot.

28 Moderator

What do you call cooperation?

30 THOMAS

Well, from the various groups and from the
various agencies, from the police department,
from the city officials, you know. We have
gotten a pretty cold shoulder since we've been
in town from the power structure, and this in
itself says that it's something that is wrong
somewhere.

44 Moderator

Would you expect them to give you a welcoming
in open arms?

48 THOMAS

No, I am not looking for any welcome in open
arms but just a lot of things that have happened

since I've been in the city in and out here they have indicated that at this particular point they were more or less ignoring us and wondering what's going on.

Moderator

Just ignoring you. How did you happen to get an interview or conference with Superintendent

WILSON? Did you request it?

THOMAS

The only thing I know that his secretary called my secretary and

Moderator

You had put in a request for it.

THOMAS

No.

Moderator

He is requesting you to come to see him.

THOMAS

Right. It's some more groups that's going to be there - supposed to be. So, I'll find out really. Well, I said what's going to be the topic and she said she didn't know, so I'll find out when I get there.

Moderator

Now, getting back to this riot. This is a very sensitive issue here. What do you think will be the major cause of a riot, if there is one?

THOMAS

Well, that would go into quite a few parts. The frustration that the black people live in the ghetto from day to day creates a certain

threat of a riot. Then with unemployment, with not being able to be a man of his house or head of the household and then on top of all of that police brutality. I think if a riot occurred it will occur from police brutality.

Moderator

You think that will be the incident that will trigger it off, as it did in Watts?

THOMAS

That is true.

Moderator

Do you think the same disastrous results would...

THOMAS

Well, I think if a full scale riot would get rolling in the city of Chicago it would be much more difficult than the one in Watts. I would say it would be three times as worse as the LA riot for the location of the city, the way Chicago is located. You have blacks on the north side and the west side and the south side. Now this would create, I think, a more worse riot than the LA riot.

Moderator

Now there was a cross burning here over the weekend out in, oh I think it was, Kenilworth. Did the Deacons have any idea of that? (Inaudible)

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Yes, well, we haven't been out there yet but we have contacted some people that live out there and we have been gathering some information. Of course, it never fooled us for any minute that Chicago was any different from Mississippi because you have more bigots in Chicago than they have in Mississippi and Louisiana put together. So this is a known fact so we're not assuming that these are all the good guys but we are not assuming that all of them are bad guys either, but we know that there are more Birchites and Klansmen, Minutemen in the city of Chicago than they could muster in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana put together.

37 Moderator

What do you think of the white teenagers who attacked at a Negro last night? If you remember this was in the news today.

43 THOMAS

Yes, I did. Well, you take a situation like this. You know these things like this is good to really point out to the people here in the city that although they live as though they are in the North and they expect to live in the different

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surroundings they don't feel that they are going to get attacked on the streets and some of them are just misled, and this shows you that whether you are involved in anything as long as you are black you are in it. And he could have been the mayor or the judge or the prosecutor of Chicago, if he'd have been black and he'd have been there at that

particular time he would have got his head whipped. And this is the whole thing. You are black and whether you are a bad black guy or a good black guy, if you are at the wrong place at the wrong time you get messed around.

Moderator

Do you think that slum conditions are as bad in Chicago as the, well, Southern Christian Leadership Conference has said? You know Dr. KING has come up here as you have and established a headquarters on the west side also.

THOMAS

Yes, well, after looking over the community I would say that it is worse than what SCLC says that it is because in some way or another I think it's time to let the man know the real facts, and not sugar coating the words and

not telling him things are so good in the ghetto
and stuff like this because things are important
words. You ride down through some of those
streets there and see the rats how large they are
and you look at this and you say now here is a
city of this size, not a poor city and I'm
quite sure they could get rid of the rats.

Moderator

I'd like to ask, when did you see your last rat?

THOMAS

Today.

Moderator

You saw a rat today?

THOMAS

Today.

Moderator

Was he a live rat?

THOMAS

A live rat. And as big as the squirrels we
kill down South.

Moderator

Four legged one.

THOMAS

That's right.

Moderator

Do you think that the Chicago Welfare Agency is
doing a good job?

THOMAS

Well, that would have to be determined, you
would have to determine that whether they are
doing a good job, that would be a pretty difficult
question. Now I think the welfare is doing the
job that the men, the structure, want them to do.

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But it is not doing the job that needs to be done to help the people, you see. There's a difference. A lot of people get confused even with the poverty program. It's serving the purpose that the man wants it to serve but it is not serving the purpose that we want it to serve and that is to help black people.

Moderator

Getting back to a question just a previous one, you were talking about the slums and you were saying that it is not as good as people see it. Who is saying it is good? Everybody I've heard here in Chicago in the last few years I think everybody is saying it's bad.

THOMAS

Everyone's saying it is bad but yet we don't see any changes.

Moderator

But then nobody is saying it, then you will retract that saying that we are saying it is good living in the slums.

THOMAS

Why, sure. If I made that mistake I certainly retract that.

Moderator

What do you think about the unemployment situation here? What are you going to do about that?

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Well, it is pretty bad and somehow or another we're going to have to meet, I am quite sure, with the city officials here and the state employment agency and the poverty program people and see about getting some of these people some jobs.

16 Moderator
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How are you going to be able to help get jobs and help people in their housing problems and this very intricate education problem?

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It's going to be quite a problem. That is why I say we are going to need some help from various groups to help put this together, put a program together to where it will be effective, and unless we get some help like I say it's going to be very difficult to help people. Now when we are not able to help people then we are not going to have any further say if the man don't listen to our plea and when we relate to the ghetto to him what the ghetto is saying and he don't act, then if something erupt then don't come to us, because we are not going out there to try to stop them people from throwing no bricks.

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5 Moderator

Do you think they would come to you in the
first place?

9 THOMAS

Well, I think they would try to come to anybody
that perhaps could have a little influence on
the ghetto.

15 Moderator

From indications they might think that you are
trying to start it.

19 THOMAS

No. They may do that but that is up to
their own opinion, but we are not out to riot or
create a riot but we're here to let him know
that the situation exists and if he don't do
something about it then it is going to be a
riot. It's if/and about that and they don't
need to tell the man there ain't going to be no
riot it's going to be a cool summer because then
you get a lot of innocent people hurt when you
tell them that things are pretty good, we'll
make it over this summer without any incident.
And you have 50 or 20 white people coming through
the ghetto and getting trapped in something like
that and they might be some pretty decent white
people and they get messed around. And the same

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thing if some blacks coming through that don't even know anything they could get messed around. So these are things I look at as the innocent person. Now if he was John Eigo coming into the community abusing someone in the community I wouldn't have any sympathy for him. You know what I mean. But you have to have sympathy for people.

Moderator

Listen, you know you were talking about what you intend to do and I understand you are in charge of all the branches that you will be setting up in the North.

THOMAS

That is true.

Moderator

What do you think of the civil rights conference which is to be held in Washington next week on June first and second which hopes to alleviate many of the problems of both North and South.

THOMAS

Well, I find it pretty hard to believe. I went to one of the pre-conferences in Philadelphia and after listening at the discussion there and participating in the discussion I could see plainly that you could have a civil rights

conferences a year and you are not going to
accomplish too much. Now, the Federal Government
knows the problem. You got FBI Agents and all
other kind of agents and then the city police
have intelligence agents and the man really
ought to know the problem better than I do.
But now the point is does he intend to do some-
thing about it. Now, I don't need to sit
around and talk to him 40 or 45 minutes, two
hours, three hours and get up and leave and
nothing is done. That's just a waste of my
time and a waste of his time and I think it's
very bad. I don't think too much is going to
come out of it. As a matter of fact I am
supposed to go to Washington on the first and
second and picket it. We are supposed to bring
up about 2,000 Deacons.

Moderator

In other words, you don't think too much about
the conference.

THOMAS

No. I don't think too much good for the black
people will come out of the conference.

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Moderator

Listen. I've been listening to you now for 29 minutes and I want to ask you one question. Do the Deacons intend to demonstrate in Chicago this summer?

THOMAS

Well, we really don't intend to demonstrate. I think demonstrations are played out just about and I think this is one approach we have used to the fullest. I find when you go out in the street demonstrating the man says he has a Constitutional right to picket, you have a lawful right to demonstrate and then he comes around and locks you up, and you pay thousands of dollars in court fees and then after paying all that you cut it loose, you know. We don't have any intention of spending no great fortune on no demonstration, the man arrests you and all that, so I don't see that we would be in the streets too much demonstrating because this does not get us too far. We get the short end of the stick every time.

Moderator

If you should have any trouble next summer or while you are here will the Deacons ask for help from other chapters across the United States, if you need it here?

THOMAS

Yes, well we feel as though we need a little help in the city of Chicago now and we have called in and in the next two months, to three months, there will be approximately ten to fifteen thousand outside Deacons coming in to the city of Chicago to try and help.

Moderator

How many?

THOMAS

Ten to fifteen thousand.

Moderator

Ten to fifteen thousand Deacons. They going to live here?

THOMAS

They'll live in the city.

Moderator

They will live in the city.

THOMAS

That's right.

Moderator

So we can expect an influx of ten to fifteen thousand Deacons.

THOMAS

Over the next three months.

Moderator

Over the next three months.

Ladies and gentlemen, our guest tonight is ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice-President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, which opened an office on the west side here three weeks ago. If you have a

question or comment we invite you to give us a
call here on the Hot Line. Our telephone
number is 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen.
Our guest tonight ERNEST THOMAS, Regional
Vice-President and Northern Director of the
Deacons for Defense and Justice. Our telephone
number 847-2602, and from all indications a lot
of people are going to have something they want
to talk with you, Mr. THOMAS. I'd like to ask
you two or three other questions before we go
to the telephone and that is - you know that
we have a lot of young people here in Chicago.
They have associated themselves in what we call
gangs, west side gangs, east side, south side,
north side. You name it and they've got gangs.
Will there be a youth program with the Deacons?
Yes, we are hoping strongly that we can get a
pretty decent youth program.

THOMAS

Moderator

THOMAS

You going to draw them from this group here?
Pardon?

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6 Moderator

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8 THOMAS

9 Do you intend to draw the youth from the gangs?
10 Any, whether he is a gang youth or a youth we
11 want to try to work with them some type of way
12 to keep them primarily in something, in an
13 active way, and we hope to try and form softball
14 leagues all over the city and maybe a little
15 participation in that baseball league and what
16 happens, you know.
17

18 Moderator

19 Well, one other question. What do you think
20 about the peace demonstrations? We've been
21 having some peace demonstrations against our
22 involvement in Viet Nam for a few months now.

23 THOMAS

24 Well, I've been more or less pushed into several
25 of them. I didn't understand them until I was
26 in them. I ended up the police would go this
27 way, go this way and I ended up there. But
28 what's puzzling me is it is a many whites out
29 there talking about end the war in Viet Nam and
30 they are the ones that mostly prosper from
31 whatever the U.S....
32

33 Moderator

34 But you didn't say these individual whites who are
35 asking; I am thinking about the young man who is

going to be on my show tomorrow night,
EARL SILBAR. Now he is very much against the
profit that's in the...

THOMAS

Well, that's true. But what I am say is
I don't see Negroes on a mass scale out there
talking about the war in Viet Nam. I think
this is really what need to be that blacks say
well why should I go to Viet Nam.

Moderator

Oh, you think they should be out on the peace
move, or are you?

THOMAS

I'm saying that Afro-Americans should be out
there. I'm not so much concerned with whether
they are integrated out there but I'm saying
that because there is a difference out of the
pie when although some the ones that are
protesting now the war in Viet Nam this may
eventually end up working on the space ship
that goes to the moon or somewhere. But I'm
speaking of black people that are dying and
that have died in every war in this country and
now when we come back home we cannot get our
rightful slice of the pie. And every group,

every other minority group has gotten a slice of the pie. This is why I am saying black people are going to have to say well why don't you go fight your battle until you give me my rightful share of the pie. See, because I believe in this law in the sea. You know, the ship is sunken and damaged and you tow it in you get so much of the cargo. So I think if we help you exploit the people then we should have a rightful cut off the pie.

Moderator

One other question. What do you think of the political structure here in Chicago?

THOMAS

Well, from all indications it is a pretty bad thing.

Moderator

In what respect?

THOMAS

Well, in all respects.

Moderator

Such as.

THOMAS

Well, all these problems exist, unemployment; like I say the free is let to blow up and this is because X number of things. Welfare is not giving the welfare recipient enough money, they are taking the man and tearing him away from his

family and support his wife and kids and run him out of the house so it is just a whole lot of things that cause this and I think the political structure mostly everything in the city of Chicago is political tied anyway.

Moderator

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, our guest ERNEST THOMAS, our telephone number 847-2602. We're going to stop here for a short message.

(Commercial)

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Moderator

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen.
WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest ERNEST
THOMAS and our telephone number 847-2602.
Let's go and see what some of our listeners
have to ask you.
This is the Hot Line.

First Speaker

Hello Mr. SOUTH.

Moderator

Yes.

First Speaker

This is EARL YOUNG. I haven't caught all of
your program but I did catch a portion of it
for your interview with the Deacons and I
would like to say with all due respect to the
Deacons and any constructive approach they
may have to solving the situations and many
problems that we are having in Chicago I do
hope that if they have the chance to meet with
city officials that they will make it clear
that they do not represent the Negro population
as a whole because judging from the appearance
that they seem to be giving on the program I
for one would not want to be represented by them.
Thank you.

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11 Moderator Thank you for your call.
12 THOMAS Thank you sir.
13 Moderator This is the Hot Line.
14 Second Speaker Hello.
15 Moderator Yes, may we have your question.
16 Second Speaker Mr. THOMAS, did I hear you say that you are
17 expecting from ten to fifteen thousand Deacons
18 in the city of Chicago very shortly.
19 THOMAS Yes, in the next three months.
20 Second Speaker How are they going to live? Will they be
21 working on jobs or will they bring money
22 enough to support themselves?
23 THOMAS Well, the organization will worry about that.
24 Second Speaker You say that you are not going to participate
25 in demonstrations and you are not going to
26 offer any...
27 THOMAS Now I said. Wait a minute. I think you
28 misinterpreted me. I said the organization
29 was not too concerned about demonstrating in
30 the streets.
31 Second Speaker Yes, and I inferred from your conversation
32 that you are not going to offer any armed

resistance to the police, so I would like to know what you would describe as the exact function of the Deacons in Chicago.

THOMAS

Well, we would probably be pretty busy telling a man the problems, and I think by telling him the problem and pointing to the problem and the street groups can more or less demonstrate around them if they like.

Second Speaker

I would like to ask you one more question. Will the Deacons participate in any political campaigns while they are here?

THOMAS

Sure we will participate in political campaigns while we are here.

Second Speaker

Here is one more thing. This is the last question. What sort of success have you had in recruiting people from the city of Chicago?

THOMAS

Well, as I say we have about around 135 now and I consider that in a short time we have had to work with these people and it's been successful.

Second Speaker

That is since you had your first open for three weeks.

THOMAS

No. We have been in the city of Chicago for the last seven months but I've been off and on in the city.

Second Speaker

Okay, well, thank you very much.

Moderator

Thanks for calling.

Where is your office located?

THOMAS

1230 South Pulaski.

Moderator

Let's get back to the telephone.

This is the Hot Line.

Third Speaker

Hello. Mr. THOMAS please.

Moderator

Go right ahead.

Third Speaker

Mr. THOMAS, I understand you to say that you are going to point up the problems to the man.

Aren't the problems already pointed up? I mean, aren't they aware of the problems now?

THOMAS

I think I made that statement that the man knows more about the problem than I and you put together.

Third Speaker

Why do you need fifteen thousand other people in here to crowd the situation that we now have to point up a problem that is already self-evident?

THOMAS

Because I'll tell you why. Because as I say we're not one of the nonviolent groups and we don't think that we are not in the city to get hurt or beat.

Third Speaker

To incite a riot?

THOMAS

Pardon?

Third Speaker

You here to incite a riot?

THOMAS

If a riot occurs it will occur on its own.

We are not here to incite a riot but then also we are not intending to be intimidated and beat by anyone and if you know the gentleman that's running out on the south side that HERBERT (phonetic), the man that came in his office and shot him up. Now we don't intend to have that either.

Third Speaker

But that was not the man. That was the colored man.

THOMAS

The colored man.

Third Speaker

Yes, he was shot by a Negro.

THOMAS

Well, you know you white people can put Negroes up to do things too. We have some black people with black skin that's white, you know. And when I see that happen that's a weak-minded black man.

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Third Speaker

Yes, well another thing you spoke of the
slums and the rats. Who creates the slums?

THOMAS

Who creates the slums?

Third Speaker

Yes.

THOMAS

The people.

Third Speaker

The people, right. So if the Negroes create
their own slums...

THOMAS

No. When they move into an area that's 35 to
40 years old, they never moved into a ghetto
or a large community of 40 or 50 blocks of new
housing like white developments goes up.

Moderator

You don't mean that to be true in Chicago.
You're talking about in some areas.

THOMAS

In some areas of Chicago, that is right.
In the ghettos is what I'm speaking of.

Third Speaker

Negroes have moved in Chicago into brand new
houses and have created slums right in their
present house. They move into old housing that
has been kept clean in spite of the age and dirty
it. They steal light bulbs out of their own
community, they write on the walls. Do we blame
the white man for this?

THOMAS

Well, you see where the responsibility comes is if the man don't make enough money...

Third Speaker

Shouldn't this be taken up with the Negro?

THOMAS

Pardon?

Third Speaker

If they are creating their own problems.

THOMAS

Well, do you want me to answer it or I'll listen to you?

Third Speaker

I want you to answer it.

THOMAS

Well, now you see when a man do not have a decent job, because the only reason he don't have a decent job is that he is black. And all of this perpetuate the whole situation to make it be like it is. Here a man. He is worried how he is going to make another buck and you worried about whether you going to paint your house this week or next week or what color you going to change it. And he can't even see where he can get any paint, you see. And these are the problems that exist to create a slum. Then you bring in all the slum buildings that are supposed to really be torn down and the city inspectors come by and they

check the building and they slip him a buck
and they go head on. The building go on and
the next minute it is a fire trap and it kills
fifteen or twenty kids in the buildings.

Third Speaker

Well, what about the housing that the
Negroes buy and they in turn rent to the
Negroes and the Negroes go about destroying
the properties that they are renting from
Negroes. Do they blame the white man for that?

THOMAS

Well, I observe by what you are saying I'm
quite sure you are caucasian.

Third Speaker

Oh, I'm quite black.

THOMAS

Well, you are caucasian minded, so when I say
that I don't mean the pigments of your skin.
We have a lot of black people that more or less
white/black and they don't see beyond the
problems of their own race. And I am quite
sure you fall into this category that you don't
understand your own fellow (incredible).

Third Speaker

I think we're using black as an excuse.

THOMAS

Well, if you show me any black man in America or
black woman in America that is free then I'll
give up.

THOMAS

Well, we are striving for the conditions of the whole U.S. We are not just concerned just with Chicago. I want to be able to go to New York, anywhere else. We are not just concerned with just Chicago because I have some sixty seventy chapters and I am concerned about what is going on in all these seventy different places. And

this is my concern. Now your concern might be just right here in Chicago, but mine's not.

Third Speaker

Well, since you are here in Chicago don't you think part of the program could be geared toward helping the black man help himself?

THOMAS

That's true.

Third Speaker

I mean like not only fighting for your rights...

THOMAS

And one of those ways is to find yourself and to be a man. And we cannot find ourselves and to be a man by letting you whip us and the head.

Third Speaker

Now everybody isn't whipped since the head.

THOMAS

Well, you whip one way or the other or you whip side the head or you whip nobody.

Either way you whipped.

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Third Speaker

So what do we do? Do we go through physical violence or do we try to alleviate the problems that create the situation?

THOMAS

Well, when you go to try to deal with the problem that creates the situation then that brings on violence because the man never wants

go give any ground. You understand? Why, you think you never seen the civil rights people get their heads whipped down South?

Third Speaker

Oh, yes...

THOMAS

You never seen them get arrested in Chicago?

Pardon?

Third Speaker

I've never been in the South but they have had heads whipped in other areas other than the South.

THOMAS

Right. Have you heard of police brutality in Chicago?

Third Speaker

Yes, there's police brutality in Chicago but what I'm speaking of is the fact that there are more areas to work than just the violence.

Moderator

So you would bypass the courts and we'll take care of this, is this what the Deacons are saying?

THOMAS

No. We are not saying that, but I think the lady got mixed up for when we as an organization was not intending to spend a fortune going through the courts when the one Federal law says you have the right to picket to lawful assembly and all this and then the city official comes in and arrests you and you go through courts, city courts...

Moderator

You say you are not going to demonstrate.

THOMAS

No, we are not going to get out there doing that.

Moderator

We have to cut you off here now. We have a couple commercials coming up. Thank you for calling. Good night.
Our telephone number 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Moderator

This is the Hot Line.

Fourth Speaker

Yes, Mr. SOLTE. What is your guest, Mr. THOMAS?

Moderator

Yes, ERNEST THOMAS.

Fourth Speaker

Is he on? Well, Mr. THOMAS.

THOMAS

Yes sir.

Fourth Speaker

You said that you were asked to come here.
Would you mind explaining who asked you to come here?

THOMAS

No, I don't think it is necessary to answer you.

Fourth Speaker

It is none of my business.

THOMAS

Pardon?

Fourth Speaker

You say you don't think it is none of my business?

THOMAS

I say I don't think it is necessary for me to answer that.

Fourth Speaker

I don't see why.

Moderator

This man lives here. He is a Negro you come here to help him.

Fourth Speaker

Come here to help you do what.

Moderator

Sir, he has come here to help you. I would say too I would say it's your business to know.

Fourth Speaker

I am a Negro.

Moderator

That's what I say.

Fourth Speaker

Yes, and that's why I ask you.

Moderator

I know the NAACP say they didn't ask you. The Urban League say they didn't ask you.

THOMAS

I don't mean established groups such like that. These are various people and from small groups.

2 Moderator I know churches have said they didn't ask you
3 to come in.
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8 THOMAS Yes, like I say we are not going to disclose
9 who invited us in.
10
11
12 Moderator Is there any reason? I mean is this a secret
13 organization?
14
15
16 THOMAS Not an organization. We got our signs up.
17
18 We're here. But I'm speaking of who invited
19 us. And this have a tendency to get the people
20 that invited us into a bind because they do
21 work for the power structure.
22
23
24 Moderator You would say that someone invited you in.
25
26 THOMAS A lot of people, yes.
27
28 Fourth Speaker Would you explain who the lot of people are.
29
30 Can't you give me some...
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32 THOMAS I thought I explained this to you. Say if you
33 worked for the mayor and your name was on there
34 would you want me to give that name out?
35
36 Fourth Speaker Listen, we have a lot of groups here. I can't
37 words we have got too many groups here.
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39 THOMAS No, we never have too many because we haven't
40 solved the problem. Meantime whether we've got
41 too many...
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Fourth Speaker

Will you listen to me. You know you say it again that you was going to bring in about fifteen thousand Deacons. Now you know you ain't got no fifteen thousand Deacons. There ain't an organization among the Negroes today got fifteen thousand Negroes in it.

THOMAS

Wait three months and call me back and say that.

Fourth Speaker

Wait three months. Look. I've been here in Chicago long before you were born.

THOMAS

Well, we're not arguing that point.

Fourth Speaker

And you say you've been here six months.

THOMAS

Yes, six to seven months off and on.

Fourth Speaker

Now you don't know what's going on in Chicago no more than what somebody tell you.

THOMAS

Well, I don't see... In other words you saying I can't see the problem.

Fourth Speaker

Wait a minute. You going to hear me now. We do not want no pistol packing Deacons here because we get along without a riot and you know you can't accomplish nothing in no boisterous way and I don't like your attitude. You spoke about the man looking in the store at the man. Don't you know that's a match for a riot? Don't you know that?

THOMAS

Pardon?

Fourth Speaker

Huh?

Moderator

He said don't you know that your statement of the hungry man looking at a ham in the store is a match for a riot.

THOMAS

Well then I can't help that.

Fourth Speaker

Yes you can help that by not speaking and things. And here's another thing I want to tell you. Any time the groups get together like that you've been...you see we are American citizens.

THOMAS

That's right.

Fourth Speaker

Don't deal just on black, black and white, black and white. Don't you know what you're doing? You just building up more hatred between the two races.

THOMAS

I'm not striving for love. We're striving for respect for one another.

Fourth Speaker

We don't want no pistol packing Deacons here.

THOMAS

Well, we didn't say we was pistol packing.

Fourth Speaker

I'm a Negro myself, and I'm going to tell you so far as I'm concerned you should never have come here.

THOMAS

Well, you are entitled to your opinion.

Fourth Speaker

Then you was talking about the police department and all such as that. We don't need you to come here. You don't know nothing about no ghettos or no slums or nothing like that. You ain't been here long enough to know.

THOMAS

Oh, that's no difference.

Fourth Speaker

I've been here forty some odd years and don't know all about it.

THOMAS

It's no different here than New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, no where.

Fourth Speaker

Speak a little louder please.

Moderator

He said no difference here than New York or Chicago. At New York, Philadelphia, other places.

THOMAS

That's right. It's no difference.

Moderator

Okay. Thank you for calling out.

Fourth Speaker

Okay.

Moderator

Good night.

Fifth Speaker

Yes. WESLEY SOWEN told me so well.

Moderator

Speaking.

Fifth Speaker

I would like to talk with a Mr. THOMAS.

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Moderator

Who is this - did you say? I told you to call?
Go right ahead.

Fifth Speaker

Yes, my name is Mr. OVERTON.

Moderator

Well, he said I told him to call; go right ahead.

Fifth Speaker

Yes, am I talking with Mr. THOMAS?

THOMAS

Yes you are.

Fifth Speaker

Well, here's what I would like to bring out.

I've been listening to your program very long

here and I want to.... You know, I'm not

condemning you for being here and I'm not

condoning you, but I want to say some of the

things that's going on that you're speaking of

really, actually happening here. I am in

in a slum which you called and I see a lot of

things and one way or the other I think

its something going to be happening which

going to be right.

THOMAS

That's true.

Fifth Speaker

Far as the explosion. Because I'll tell you

what goes on here, see. A lot of times when you

from suburbs and what have you they come around.

They'll be looking for prostitutes and things

thing and another. And it has been called to the
police department's attention and everything,
and nothing's really been done about it. And
And so what else can you do about it? I would
really like for some of the listeners to give
their opinion.

Moderator

Would you and I know each other, sir? I'm trying to rack my brain for someone by the name of OVERTON.

Fifth Speaker

Yes, you do.

Moderator

Okay. Thanks for calling.

Our telephone number 847-2602.

(Commercial)

This is the Hot Line.

Sixth Speaker

I would like to address a remark or two to Mr. THOMAS. Mr. THOMAS, I'm white and I've been struggling for integration and against segregation and for civil rights for probably more than you have years. In other words before you were born, and I just wonder why it is you want to exclude white people from your organization.

THOMAS

You say why?

Moderator

Yes, why.

THOMAS

Well, for the simple reason...

Sixth Speaker

That I've earned it. You know I've gone through a lot in the last 10 years or so. Ever since the days of the Scottsberg (phonetic) case. You'll defend white civil rights workers, won't you?

THOMAS

Sure, certainly.

Sixth Speaker

Well, why don't you let them participate in your organization too?

THOMAS

Wait a minute. It's just like the B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organization that they only let Jews in and just like the White Citizens Council only let white people in; the John Birchers only let white people in. I could name you so many groups that don't have anything but whites...

Sixth Speaker

You are mistaken about many of these organizations because most organizations have dropped their bars.

THOMAS

I don't know of any blacks in the Ku Klux Klan or the Minutemen or the Birchers.

Moderator

Are you comparing yourself to the Ku Klux Klan?

THOMAS

No. It's just being a black organization, and nothing wrong with being a black organization.

Sixth Speaker

No, but you say that the purpose of your organization is to defend the rights of the Negro, to work for his dignity. I approve of these aims, generally speaking, although I don't know about the pistol packing part. But suppose a white person was just as much interested as you in defending the dignity and the rights of the Negro people. Why should he be barred from a group like that?

Moderator

And before you answer I would like to ask you this question. A moment ago you said to a woman that the pigmentation of her skin may have been... That she was white on the inside but her skin was dark. What about a person being...

THOMAS

White and dark inside?

Moderator

Yes.

THOMAS

Well, that's true. I accept this fact. But also...

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4
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6 Sixth Speaker

You know how many white civil rights workers
have been killed in the South?

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10 THOMAS

Pardon?

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12 Sixth Speaker

You know how many whites have been killed in the
South.

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15 THOMAS

True.

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18 Sixth Speaker

People who have gone in there fighting against
segregation and for civil rights.

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21 THOMAS

And we've protected more white civil rights
workers than we did black civil rights
workers, but anyone that even was down South
and ran across any of the Deacons or happen to
know me personally know that I'm a pretty nice
fellow to meet but when we hold our membership
this is what it is. We have a lot of whites
that we work with.

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38 Sixth Speaker

But when you treat white civil rights workers
and people who are only in line whose skin happen
to be white, when you treat them as if they are
the enemy and they can't belong to your organiza-
tion then you're giving a lot of fuel to the
fire then....

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Copies of this Memo have been disseminated
locally at Chicago, Illinois to the United States Attorney,
Secret Service, and to Region I, 113th INTC Group.

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED, aka
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

To instruct, train, "teach and educate citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic, security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

APPENDIX

FBI

Date: 6/22/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-6010)
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST THE SHOOTING
OF JAMES R. MEREDITH
RM

Re New Orleans teletype to Director and
Jackson dated 6/22/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are two (2)
copies of LHM captioned as above submitted for
dissemination; with five (5) copies for the Jackson
Division.

Copies of LHM disseminated to Secret Service
and FBI, New Orleans.

[REDACTED]

b1

Approved: SAC, NEW ORL

JUL 23 1968

Date: 6/22/68

How: [REDACTED]

By: [REDACTED]

1 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)

1 - Jackson (RM) (Enc. 5)

1 - New Orleans

C. J. [REDACTED]

(2)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 [REDACTED] 6-12-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 (1) D
DATE OF REVIEW 6-12-80

COPIES

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Seal [REDACTED]

JUL 12 1968



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 22, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST THE
SHOOTING OF JAMES H. MEREDITH

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

CLASSIFIED BY SP182/47-23-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-22-82

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of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned
to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed
outside your agency

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1966

FBI BALTO

TELETYPE

4-15 4-05 PM EDST URGENT 7-2-66 PTK
TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON
FROM BALTIMORE 157-1008

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ) RM.

b7D [REDACTED] CONFIRMED TODAY THAT ERNEST THOMAS IS IN BA AND
DRIVING CHRYSLER SARATOGA, 1A. LICENSE [REDACTED] (FIRST
THREE DIGITS ONLY). THOMAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHARLES SIMMS WHO
IS DRIVING TAN OLDSMOBILE NINETY EIGHT, WITH MISS. LICENSE
[REDACTED] THEY ARE STAYING AT MT.
ROYAL HOTEL, BA.

BA FILES REFLECT SIMMS PRESIDENT OF BOGALUSA CHAPTER
DDJ.

ADVISE IF THOMAS OWNS SUCH AN AUTOMOBILE AND FURNISH
COMPLETE NUMBER. JACKSON CONFIRM MISS. LICENSE FOR SIMMS. FURNISH
ALL PERTINENT INFO INCLUDING DESCRIPTIVE DATA RE SIMMS. ADVISE
OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DDJ WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING THOMAS AND SIMMS
AND FURNISH ALL DETAILS RE SUCH PERSONS.

CONTACT ALL LOGICAL SOURCES AND DETERMINE PURPOSE OF D.D.J.
MEMBERS IN BALTIMORE.

SUTEL.

END

JPM

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 jcl/g

5 JUL 12 1966

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 7-2-66

Information in attached
being furnished to the Department.

RHH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 J24/88

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Holmes
Miss Gandy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Miss Gandy.

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-3290

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP7 JTC
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-1-86

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUL 6 1965

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

END OF PAGE TWO

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE

THOMAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDING NATIONAL CORE CONVENTION
BALTIMORE AT PRESENT TIME. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN
IN HANDLING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE
SOURCE.

END AND ACK PLS

HA HFL

FBI WASH DC

REM

FBI BALTO

DISC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 6/30/66

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1561) (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISESUBJECT: FRIENDS OF THE DEACONS FOR
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

The "Workers World", Volume VII, Number 20, dated 10/14/65, contained an article indicating CHARLES SIMS, founder of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and RAYMOND HICKS, Vice President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana, Voters League, will speak in New York on 10/23 and 25/65.

The article indicated RICHARD (RICQUEY) LE SEUR, a friend of the Deacons in New York, announced the events from the newly opened office of the Friends of the Deacons for Defense and Justice (FDDJ), 271 West 125th St., Room 209, NY, NY.

The following information was furnished by [REDACTED] on the dates indicated:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2-Bureau (RM)
1-New York

GAJ:mpw
(3)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

REC 53
MCT-14

JUL 1 1966

EX-103

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c) b1

[REDACTED] that there will be (c)
a rally 12/26/65 at the Mount Morris Presbyterian Church for
BILL EPTON. One of the sponsoring groups is the Harlem Friends
of the Deacons. The purpose of the rally is to try to get
BILL EPTON out of jail and to raise money for him.

[REDACTED]

(c) [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 157-1561

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

On 3/9/66, an attempt was made to pretext the FDDJ telephone number 749-8745, at which time it was determined that the number had been disconnected.

On 4/1/66, [REDACTED]

reflect that on 6/14/65, RICQUE LE SEUR was listed as Treasurer, Staten Island Chapter, CORE. The record further reflects that LE SEUR is assistant to CHARLES SIDES of the Deacons, and that LE SEUR has been making use of the Deacons' funds and not advancing the cause of the group.

[REDACTED]

On 4/6/66, a pretext telephone call to 666-0787, the number listed on a pamphlet issued by the Harlem Committee for the Defense of Free Speech, was answered by an unidentified male who stated that neither he nor any of the other persons in the office know who to contact to join the Deacons. In fact, he stated he wished he did because he would join. He stated he does not believe there is such an organization in New York at the present time. (The number 666-0787 is listed to the Harlem Unemployment Center, 139 West 125th St.)

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7C
b7D

On 4/22/66, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the DDJ in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or New York areas.

WITNESS TO SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

He stated that [REDACTED] is in no way associated with the DDJ and has never expressed an interest in becoming affiliated with the organization. Although [REDACTED] did not elaborate, he expressed the feeling that [REDACTED], in his opinion, is not the type of individual he would want in the DDJ. [REDACTED] advised that EARNST THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro, Louisiana, DDJ, is presently in Jonesboro, Louisiana, and has not indicated that he has any knowledge of planned activities of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New York, or New Jersey. [REDACTED] emphatically stated that if any such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them. He advised that he, himself, has no desire to become active in that area, and has heard no [REDACTED] leaders of the DDJ express a desire to do so.

On 5/4/66, [REDACTED] Branch Office of the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs, Room 209, 271 West 125th St., advised that the office, which they currently occupy, was empty when they moved in approximately the middle of April, 1966.

On 5/5/66, [REDACTED] 271 West 125th St., NYC, advised that Room 209 was sublet by a lawyer, (FNU) [REDACTED], to an unknown male whose name and nature of business [REDACTED] could not recall. He stated that he did recall a rent check from the "Friends of Deacons for Justice" or a similar name. He advised he would contact other persons more familiar with the former tenant in an effort to determine the individual's identity and nature of business.

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] there is no known current activity of the DDJ in the NYC area at the present time. Nothing has been heard recently about this group in Harlem or NYC. [REDACTED] b7C

~~X~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

The following informants, familiar with racial activities in the NYC area, contacted during the month, of May, 1966, and could supply no additional information concerning the FDDJ, are identified as follows:

(C) [REDACTED]

b1

It should be noted that various names have been set forth for this organization in accordance with literature and informant reports received by the NYO. However, there is a close relationship existing between the captioned organization and the DDJ to the extent that the names have, on occasion, been used interchangeably. Many of the individuals, mentioned herein as being associated with the captioned organization, have also been or are affiliated with other organizations and are now or have been subjects of Bureau cases. The informants, mentioned herein, with the exception of those so indicated, have provided reliable information in the past.

This case was opened to investigate the captioned organization to determine its organizational structure, officers, members and purposes. This case is being closed administratively for the following reasons:

(1) In view of the information previously set forth which indicates that the office, which at one time was rented by [REDACTED] under the organization's name, has since been vacated [REDACTED]

b7C

~~X~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(2) The statement made by [REDACTED] on 4/24/66 indicating that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or New York, and that if such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them. b7C b7D

(3) [REDACTED] who has reported on the captioned organization, indicated that there is no known current activity in the Harlem or NYC area. (C) b1

(4) Other sources, who are familiar with racial activities in the NYC area, were unable to supply any information concerning captioned organization.

This case will be reopened upon receipt of information that the organization has become active in the New York area.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 2 1966

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLS

4:57 PM OST URGENT 7-3-66 WSW

TO DIRECTOR, AND BALTIMORE /157-1008/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-3290/ /P/

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DDJ/ RM.

RE BALTIMORE TEL TODAY.

SOURCES, BAGALUSA, LA., ADVISED CHARLES SIMS
SEEN IN BOGALUSA AT TWO P.M. TODAY. BACKGROUND
INFORMATION RE SIMS BEING FORWARDED BALTIMORE
AMSD.

NEW ORLEANS SOURCE BELIVES CORE CONVENTION ONLY

REASON FOR THOMAS BEING IN BALTIMORE. SIMS SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA JPM

FBI WASH DC

BA KGW

58 JUL 12 1966

TU

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-80 BY SP1 gsk/yf

REC-57

157-27004
JUL 6 1966

b7C

F B I

Date: 7/5/66

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) (RUC)
SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DENFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Re New Orleans airtel and LHM dated 6-30-66.

Enclosed for Mobile is copy of referenced communication for its information and assistance in this matter.

Mobile is requested to handle the lead set forth in referenced airtel regarding notifying appropriate authorities concerning Alabama Governor GEORGE WALLACE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-82 BY SP-1/1/82

REC-6

157-2466-142

3 - Bureau
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) X-104
1 - Mobile (Enc.2)
1 - Birmingham
MME:et

(6)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

SAC, Chicago

7/8/66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Chicago

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNOairtel 6/30/66.

[REDACTED] b1
(c)

NOTE:

[REDACTED] b1

The DDJ is an all Negro organization which claims to afford armed protection to civil rights workers where local law enforcement protection is insufficient in the opinion of the DDJ. Disseminated to military agencies, Department, Community Relations Service and Internal Revenue Service at the Bureau.

RLS:dehail
(4)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-8/1/4 7-24-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2/2X-113
DATE OF REVIEW 7-8-86

REC-82 157-2466-143
JUL 12 1966

313
JUL 18 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 6/29/66

To:

☒ Director

FILE # _____

Att: Director 5☐ SACTitle DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS☐ ASAC☐ Supv.☐ Agent☐ SE☐ IC☐ CC☐ Steno☐ ClerkALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-24-80 BY SP/SL/SL

Re: 7-24-80 BY SP/SL/SL

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge☐ Assign Reassign☐ Bring file☐ Call me☐ Correct☐ Deadline☐ Deadline passed☐ Delinquent☐ Discontinue☐ Expedite☐ File☐ For information☐ Handle☐ Initial & return☐ Leads need attention☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.☐ Open Case☐ Prepare lead cards☐ Prepare tickler☐ Recharge serials☐ Return assignment card☐ Return file☐ Return serials☐ Search and return☐ See me☐ Send Serials

to _____

☐ Submit new charge out☐ Submit report by _____☐ Type

Re attached routing slip.

Information furnished _____ as contained in b7D
LHM dated 6/20/66 was furnished to SA _____ b7C

See reverse side

SAC AS. RagsdaleOffice Me. C. C. C.

During course of contact SA [REDACTED] attempted ^{b7c}
to get further details but [REDACTED] furnished only ^{b7D}
that information contained in LHM of 6/20/66.

ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER
SAC

99 JUN 25 1 11 PM '66

REC'D
JUN 1 1 14 PM '66

FBI

Date: 6/30/66

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (PRIORITY MAILING SLIP (S) AT 8/27/66 10:00 PM)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE DATE RM

LHM.

Enclosed herewith are 11 copies of a self explanatory

[REDACTED] b1

The LHM has been disseminated locally to the USA, Shreveport, Louisiana, Secret Service, ICG, NISO, New Orleans, as well as OSI Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and USA, New Orleans.

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

- 3-Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
1-Jackson (RM) (Encl)
1-Chicago (RM) (Encl)
1-WFO (Info.) (RM) (Encl)
1-Los Angeles (Info.) (RM) (Encl)
1-Cleveland (Info.) (RM) (Encl)
1-Birmingham (RM) (Encl)
1-New York (Info.) (RM) (Encl)
3-New Orleans (2- 157-3290)

1-Baltimore (Info) (RM)

DATE FORW: 7/1/66
HOW FORW: BY: [REDACTED]

DCS/cac
(14)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

JUL 4 1966

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

CLASS. & EXT. BY: [REDACTED]

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 6-30-2016

5 JUL 20 1966 902940

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

b1

(C)

[REDACTED]

b1

(C)

ERNEST THOMAS has an office in Chicago, Illinois, and it is at 1236 Pulaski Street, Chicago, Illinois (C)

[REDACTED]

b1

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

b1

(c)

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5*

CONFIDENTIAL

F B I

Date: 6/20/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3200)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

RM

(OO: NO)

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of a LHM captioned as above and suitable for dissemination. Two copies being enclosed for Baltimore. Copies disseminated to Secret Service and ICG, New Orleans.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Baltimore (Enc. 2)
- 2 - New Orleans

JEO:med
(7)

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1/ST/STP

REC-59

157-2466-145

JUN 21 1966

AGENCY: ACS, ONE OSI SEC. SER.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE, CRD, [redacted], [redacted]

DATE FORW: 7-5-66

HOW FORW: R/S

BY: NJM/ce

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

54 JUL 18 1966



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 20, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On June 13, 1966, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the DDJ of Bogalusa is planning to go to Baltimore, Maryland, sometime after the completion of the present Meredith march in Mississippi.

[REDACTED] stated that no specific date has been set for the trip to Baltimore but added that it is definitely planned. He further stated that the number of Deacons who will participate in this endeavor has not been decided upon at this time.

[REDACTED] declined to furnish a membership list and indicated he would not do so at any time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-24-82 BY SP182/LJS

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

157-2466-145